

A NEW SPECIES OF TRIDAX (ASTERACEAE-HELIANTHEAE)
FROM OAXACA, MEXICO

B. L. Turner, Department of Botany, University of Texas,
Austin, TX 78713, USA

In the preparation of a treatment of the genus Tridax for the Asteraceae of Mexico the following novelty, closely related to the Guatemalan Tridax purpurea, was detected.

Tridax oaxacana B. Turner, sp. nov.

T. purpureae S. F. Blake simile sed foliis ovatis fere sessilibus, bracteis involucri glabris, et flosculis disci purpuratis differt.

Stiffly erect, perennial, herb to 1 m high; stems simple, mostly unbranched, pubescent below with spreading glandular-trichomes, 1.0-1.8 mm long, these shorter above (ca 0.5 mm long) and interspersed among these a few longer, glandless trichomes (ca 1 mm long); leaves ovate, 4-7 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, sparsely rough-hispid, the petioles 0-2 mm long, the margins serratulate; heads radiate, 6-8 in long lax panicles 50-60 cm long, the ultimate peduncles 1-7 cm long; involucre campanulate, 10-12 mm long, 10-12 mm wide, the bracts 5-6 seriate, markedly graduate, chartaceous, glabrous or nearly so, the margins scarious, rounded at the apices; receptacles conical, paleate, the pales scarious, ovate-linear, 6-8 mm long, somewhat 3-fid; ray florets 3, fertile, the ligules lavender, obovate, ca 15 mm long, ca 14 mm wide; disk florets, 16-20, the corollas purplish-black, the tube ca 2 mm long, hirsutulous, the throat ca 5 mm long, glabrous above for ca 2/3 its length, the lobes 5, ca 1 mm long; achenes ca 4 mm long, 4-sided, pubescent throughout with appressed silky hairs, the pappus of 10-12 fimbriate scales ca 1.2 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: 12.1 km N of Sola de Vega, pine-oak forests, 1840 m, 21 Oct 1985, B. Bartholomew 3270 holotype TEX; isotypes (CAS, MEXU).

The species is closely related to Tridax purpurea Blake, and will key to that taxon in the treatment of Powell (1965). The latter species is known by only a few collections from Guatemala. Tridax oaxacana differs in having its lower stems glandular-pubescent, leaves ovate with nearly sessile blades, and disk florets purple-black.

REFERENCE

POWELL, A. M. 1965. Taxonomy of Tridax (Compositae).
Brittonia 17: 47-96.

CALEA TERNIFOLIA Kunth var. HYPOLEUCA (Rob. & Greenm.) B.
Turner, comb. nov.

Based upon Calea hypoleuca Rob & Greenm., Proc. Amer.
Acad. Arts 32: 24. 1986.

Wussow et al. (1985; Syst. Bot. 10: 241-267.) included this taxon in their broad concept of Calea ternifolia var. calyculata (B. L. Rob.) Wussow et al. The latter taxon, as noted by these authors, is largely confined to northeastern Mexico (Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi and Queretaro) while the var. hypoleuca is confined to Oaxaca. The latter variety is readily distinguished from var. calyculata by having leaves densely velutinous beneath, soft to the touch and heads sessile or nearly so; the leaves of var. calyculata are variously hispid or hispid-puberulous beneath and the heads are mostly borne on peduncles 2-10 mm long. To my knowledge the two taxa do not intergrade and appear to be well-marked, geographically isolated, varieties, if not species.